Replacement of Locos Functioning under DHR

1449. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the locos still in service under Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, have not been replaced by the new ones since years;

(b) how many locos are there at present in D.H.R. in working condition, with their respective age;

(c) whether Government have any proposals for their replacement;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Presently 18 steam locomotives are in operation on this section and their age ranges between 67 and 101 years.

(c) to (e) This section has immense tourist attraction with steam loco operation. It has, therefore, been decided that such of these sections i.e. Darjeeling Himalayan Railways, Nilgiri Mountain Railways and certain section of Palace-On-Wheels will be continued to be operated with steam locomotives till about the turn of this century to sustain tourist attraction. All efforts are being made to keep these locomotives in good condition for safe and reliable operation.

Completion of ongoing railway projects in Gujarat

1450. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out any scheme for the completion of various ongoing railway projects in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount allocated for these projects?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of funds provided and the target dates of completion are as under:—

	Project	Funds proposed for 1995-96 (Rs. in crores)	Target date
1.	Phulera—Marwar—Ahmedabad gauge conversion	226.43	1995-96
2.	Viramgam—Mahesana gauge conversion	40.00	1995-96
3.	Rajkot—Veraval gauge conversion	3.00	1998-99
4.	Kapadvanj—Modasa new BG line	2·00	not yet fixed